

Appl. No. : 10/681,766
Filed : October 8, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently amended) A method for purification and separation of a liquid, the method comprising:

inputting the liquid into a receptacle through an inlet opening;

~~interrupting the flow of the liquid around at least one inlet baffle after the inlet opening;~~

communicating the liquid through an active pool to an outlet opening, the outlet opening defining a permanent pool level; smaller than the inlet opening;

interrupting the flow of the liquid around at least one inlet baffle after the inlet opening;

interrupting the flow of the liquid around at least one outlet baffle before the outlet opening; and

settling sediments from the flow in the active pool into at least one inactive permanent pool formed by at least a first pair of inactive pool baffles, each of said pair of inactive pool baffles extending upward from a bottom of said receptacle, but not above said permanent pool level, said inactive permanent pool gravitationally below the active pool.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of removing overflow liquid from the receptacle when approximately full via an overflow structure.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~45~~ [44], further comprising the step of placing the overflow structure integral to the apparatus receptacle, and diverting excess flow over a control weir and back to a stormwater collection system.

47. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 44, further comprising holding sediments settled from the active pool in said an inactive pool.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44 further comprising reducing the flow rate of liquid through the outlet opening by including an orifice substantially smaller than the inlet.

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49. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising controlling the discharge of liquid by moving the outlet opening.

50 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising filtering the liquid through a mesh screen before discharge.

51. (Currently Amended) A method for purification and separation of a liquid, the method comprising:

inputting the liquid into a receptacle through an inlet opening;

interrupting the flow of the liquid around at least one inlet baffle after the inlet opening;

communicating the liquid through an active pool to an outlet opening, the outlet opening smaller than the inlet opening;

interrupting the flow of the liquid around at least one outlet baffle before the outlet opening;

settling sediments from the flow in the active pool into at least one permanent pool, said permanent pool gravitationally below the active pool; and

~~The method of Claim 44, further comprising trapping materials heavier than water using at least one modular mid section of the receptacle, wherein the at least one mid section is in fluid communication with the inlet opening and the outlet opening and includes at least one baffle, the trapping of materials heavier than water being accomplished via the reduction of the rate of flow with the at least one baffle.~~

52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein during the trapping of materials heavier than water, the at least one baffle of the at least one modular mid section cooperates with at least one other baffle to separate the active pool from the at least one permanent pool.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising trapping materials lighter than water using at least one modular mid section of the receptacle, wherein the at least one mid section includes at least one baffle extending above the at least one permanent pool.

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54. (Currently amended) A method for purification and separation of a liquid, the method comprising:

inputting the liquid into a receptacle through an inlet opening;

~~reducing the flow rate of the liquid by directing said liquid around at least one inlet baffle after the inlet opening;~~

communicating the liquid through an active pool to an outlet opening, the outlet opening defining a permanent pool level; smaller than the inlet opening;

reducing the flow rate of the liquid by directing said liquid around at least one inlet baffle after the inlet opening;

reducing the flow of the liquid by directing said liquid around at least one outlet baffle before the outlet opening; and,

settling sediments from the flow in the active pool into at least one inactive permanent pool formed by at least a first pair of inactive pool baffles, each of said pair of inactive pool baffles extending upward from a bottom of said receptacle, but not above said permanent pool level, said inactive permanent pool gravitationally below the active pool.